

Annual Oversight Hearing

Questions on Notice

The Hon. Greg Donnelly: As the Advocate for Children and Young People and specifically dealing with advocates in other jurisdictions, are you aware that this is a matter that is being discussed at that level and provide some response to that?

Advocate's Response:

"I am advised that on the second day of the ANZCCG Meeting in May 2019 a presentation was given by an invited panellist from A Gender Agenda titled 'Supporting intersex, trans and gender diverse children and young people - Panel and discussion'. I am further advised that on the second day of the ANZCCG meeting in November 2019, a discussion was had around 'supporting LGBTQIA+ children and young people.'

The Hon. Greg Donnelly: Would you be able to take on notice to find out whether or not it has been raised?

Advocate's Response:

As requested by the Parliamentary Committee, I raised placing the topic on the agenda of the next ANZCCG meeting with the NSW Children's Guardian, who was convening the next meeting of the ANZCCG. This meeting has been cancelled due to COVID-19 Public Health Orders"

Supplementary Questions

1. As the Acting Advocate for Children and Young People, are you aware that the matter of the significant increase in the number of children and young people in the period 2014-2019 experiencing gender dysphoria who are undertaking puberty blocker treatment in NSW has been discussed by the Australian and New Zealand Children's Commissioners and Guardians?

Advocate's Response:

I am advised that a presentation was given during a meeting of the ANZCCG in May 2019 titled 'Supporting intersex, trans and gender diverse children and young people' by an invited panellist from 'A Gender Agenda'. I am further advised a discussion occurred in relation to 'supporting LGBTQIA+ children and young people' in November of 2019. I was appointed as A/Advocate in January 2020 and as such, did not attend either meeting so cannot detail the finer points of any discussion which occurred.

1a. If so, what has been discussed, and have any decisions been made regarding actions to be taken in response to the significant increase? If so, what have been those decisions?

Advocate's Response:

I was appointed as A/Advocate in January 2020 and as such, I did not attend the two meetings in 2019 which I am advised held discussions on a topic of this nature. ACYP has not undertaken any work specific to gender dysphoria following those meetings. I am not aware at this time of any decisions or actions resulting from these meetings that has occurred in other jurisdictions which is publically available.

2. If the matter has not been discussed, have you placed onto the agenda for the next meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Children's Commissioners and Guardians the matter of the significant increase in the number of children and young people in the period 2014-2019 experiencing gender dysphoria who are undertaking puberty blocker treatment in NSW?

Advocate's Response:

As requested by the Parliamentary Committee, I raised placing the topic on the agenda of the next ANZCCG meeting with the NSW Children's Guardian, who was convening the next meeting of the ANZCCG. Unfortunately, the meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19 Public Health Orders.

2a. If not, when will you do so?

Advocate's Response:

I am happy to raise this matter for consideration as an agenda item for the next meeting of the ANZCCG. A meeting is currently scheduled for the second half of 2020.